

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

1. A method for machine-producing a series of mail pieces with the aid of a system for assembling mail pieces, comprising traversing a start-up phase comprising:

- 5 - the system registering at least one property of at least one physical, postal item of a particular type;
- generating a code representing the at least one registered property;
- comparing said code representing the at least one registered property with at least one reference code, stored in a memory, which
- 10 represents at least one item-type property; and
- in response to at least a defined extent of agreement between said code representing the at least one registered property and the reference code or at least one of the reference codes, selecting at least one setting code, associated with said reference code or at least one of the reference codes,
- 15 which represents a system setting; and
- during an operating phase following said start-up phase, producing a series of mail pieces with items of said item-type in accordance with the selected setting code.

- 20 2. A method according to claim 1, further comprising a setting phase prior to said registration of at least one property of at least one physical, postal item, comprising:
- inputting at least one reference code representing at least one item-type property;
- 25 inputting at least one setting code representing at least one system setting; and

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storing said reference code and said setting code in mutually coupled relation.

3. A method according to claim 2, further comprising registering at least two item-type properties, wherein:

said generated code represents the combination of the registered item-type properties;

a setting code is selected if said generated code exhibits at least a defined extent of agreement with a reference code coupled thereto which represents a combination of at least two item-type properties.

4. A method according to claim 3, wherein the item-type properties of at least two different items are registered.

5. A method according to claim 2, wherein selecting a setting code comprises: preselecting at least two setting codes each representing a system setting, said setting codes each being coupled to a reference code which exhibits at least a defined extent of agreement with said code generated starting from the registered at least one item-type property; and selecting a setting code from said preselected setting codes.

6. A method according to claim 5, further comprising representing said preselected setting codes, or said system settings represented thereby, in humanly perceptible form; wherein selecting a setting code from said preselected setting codes consists in inputting a choice from said represented setting codes or said system settings represented thereby.

7. A method according to claim 5, wherein selecting a setting code from said preselected setting codes is done depending on agreement between

system settings represented by said preselected setting codes and a current system setting.

8. A method according to claim 5, wherein selecting a setting code from said preselected setting codes is done depending on agreements between item types associated with system settings represented by said preselected setting codes and item types present in the system.

9. A method according to claim 1, wherein registering at least one item-type property is done in the area of a feeder station of the system.

10. A method according to claim 1, further comprising determining a difference between a current condition of the system for assembling mail pieces and a required loading condition for assembling mail pieces in accordance with said system setting associated with said at least one selected setting code, and representing an indication associated with said difference.

11. A method according to claim 1, further comprising:
determining at least two differences between a current loading condition of the system for assembling mail pieces and at least two required loading conditions for assembling mail pieces in accordance with at least two of said system settings associated with at least two of said selected setting codes;

determining a lesser one of said two differences; and
selecting as first one, one of said at least two selected setting codes that belongs to a system setting for which the difference between the required loading condition and the current condition of the system for assembling mail pieces is the lesser.

12. A computer program for setting a system for producing mail pieces, comprising instructions for traversing a start-up phase, comprising:

- causing the system to register at least one property of at least one physical, postal item of a particular type;

5 - generating a code representing the at least one registered property;

- comparing said code representing the at least one registered property with at least one reference code, stored in a memory, which represents at least one item-type property; and

10 - in response to at least a defined extent of agreement between the at least one code representing a registered property and the reference code or at least one of the reference codes, selecting at least one setting code, associated with said reference code or at least one of the reference codes, which represents a system setting;

15 and instructions for causing, during an operating phase following said start-up phase, a series of mail pieces to be produced from items of said item type in accordance with the selected setting code.

13. A system for producing a series of mail pieces comprising:

at least one station for processing postal items into a mail piece;

20 a sensor, for registering at least one type-property of an item;

a control structure communicatively linked with said sensor for receiving signals coming from said sensor, which signals represent at least one type property of an item;

25 a memory for storing at least one reference code representing an item-type property and at least one setting code representing a system setting associated with said item-type property, which memory is communicatively linked with said control structure;

wherein the control structure is arranged for traversing a start-up phase comprising: comparing signals coming from the sensor with said

30 reference code or reference codes stored in the memory, and in response to

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at least a defined extent of agreement between said code representing the at least one registered property and the reference code or at least one of the reference codes, selecting at least one setting code, associated with said reference code or at least one of the reference codes, which represents a system setting; and for controlling, during an operating phase following said -
5 start-up phase, said at least station for producing a series of mail pieces from items of said item type with the system set in accordance with the selected setting code.

10 14. A system according to claim 13, further comprising at least one feeder station for feeding postal items, wherein said sensor for registering at least one item-type property is located in the area of said feeder station.

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